

## Weekly Column for October 6, 2005

We have an exciting topic today, one that can change Troy for the better in the years to come. We recently released a list of 114 pieces of property for purchase by proposal through the in-rem process. These are properties we have foreclosed on when owners failed to pay their taxes for three years.

This year the number of properties is not as high as in past years, mostly because more people paid their taxes. That said, we do have an extensive list of buildings and vacant lots that will offer people with the right intentions a tremendous opportunity.

I stress the people with the right intentions aspect of the program because in the past the City of Troy has been taken advantage of when it comes to people gobbling up property at auctions. Previously the City would sell to the highest bidder with little recourse if the person ends up hurting the community.

Because this is a proposal auction, each party will submit a closed bid with a plan for the property. Make no mistake; we are looking for solid individuals. We are not looking for people who are going to come to Troy, carve up a building, rent it out, and leave. Owner occupancy is our catch phrase on this one.

And if people do not follow through on their plans, we'll take the property back. Winners of the property will not be allowed to come in, say they will occupy the structure, and then change their minds afterwards. We are very serious about this.

I am hopeful we will be able to find people to improve many of these properties. There are lots of positive things happening in Troy, and many people are aware of it.

There are many two family houses available through the proposal, as well as a few bars, and even a full service restaurant located on Oakwood Avenue (the former Lombardi's North). Stop by City Hall today and pick up a list of the properties, or you can go to [www.collarcityauctions.com](http://www.collarcityauctions.com)

Have a great Holiday weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy